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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,632	09/03/2003	Austin Wang		8122

7590 07/26/2004

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EXAMINER

WONG, STEVEN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3711

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/656,632	Applicant(s) WANG, AUSTIN	
	Examiner Steven Wong	Art Unit 3711	✓

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 6 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Claims Rejections – 35 USC 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tabet in view of McGuire. Regarding claim 1, Tabet discloses a golf ball tee (note Figures 1 and 2) comprising a peg member (11) adapted to be inserted into the ground by end (17) and a holding member (13) mounted on the peg member. The holding member includes a coupling base (noted generally by element 22 in Figure 1), a seat portion (14) and a plurality of links (created by slit 20) connecting the base with the seat portion. Note Figures 1 and 2 showing the longitudinal axis for the peg member and the holding member. However, Tabet discloses for both the peg member and the holding member to be formed from rigid material.

McGuire discloses a golf tee construction comprising an upper ball holding member (22) and a peg member (23). Note column 3, lines 48-51 and 60-63 stating that the upper ball holding member is made from a pliant material and the peg member is made from a rigid material. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to form the tee of Tabet with the peg member from a rigid material and the holding member from a flexible material in order to allow the golf tee to yield to any impacts with the golf club head and prevent damage to either item.

Regarding claim 2, note Figure 1 of Tabet showing a pin (16) that extends within the head portion of the peg member. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

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replace the peg with a pair of lugs in order to simplify construction by eliminating the need for a separate pin and allowing the lugs to be integrally formed with the peg member.

Regarding claim 7, both Tabet and McGuire teach for their tees to have sufficient strength to support a golf ball thereon.

3. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tabet in view of McGuire and Nial et al. Nial discloses that it is well known in the art of golf tees to provide a plurality of protrusions circumferentially formed on the rim of the golf ball supporting surface. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the golf tee of Tabet as modified by McGuire with a plurality of protrusions in order to reduce the amount of friction between the tee and the golf ball.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3 and 4 appear to read over the prior art of record.

Conclusion

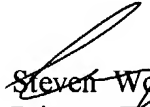
5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Wong whose telephone number is 703-308-3135. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Vidovich can be reached on 703-308-1513. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


~~Steven Wong~~
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3711

SBW
July 22, 2004